



**Collins & Gowanda Officers Come to the Aid of School Bus in Distress
November 6, 2014**

A carpool of Correction Officers from Collins and Gowanda (Erie County) were on their way to training at Attica (Wyoming County) on Thursday, October 30th when their prior years of training was suddenly called into action. The C.O's had been following a school bus carrying a young student on its morning route when the bus began to slow down and pull off to the side of the road to allow traffic to pass. It was then that the back tires appeared to lose traction on the road's shoulder, and the back end of the bus began to skid down the embankment, causing the bus to tip over on its side and slide down a small ravine.

The Correction Officers quickly pulled over, two of them remaining on the roadside to divert traffic, while the remaining C.O's raced down the ravine to assist. Correction Officer Griffey (Gowanda) phoned 911 as others attended to the driver and one kindergartener, who were the only people on the bus. Both were unharmed, but quite shaken up female. After quickly determining there were no injuries, Correction Officers Bobseine (Gowanda) and Rice (Collins) carefully freed the driver who was suspended in her seatbelt. Correction Officers Southworth (Collins) and Pagels (Gowanda) opened the back emergency door of the bus, where they were greeted by the little boy who said, "I was on one side of the bus and then I was on the other! But I'm OK." Officers Griffey and Dryzmala (Gowanda) continued to secure the accident scene and the C.O's remained with the driver and her young passenger until State Police and emergency personnel arrived.

Officer Southworth remarked how brave the little boy was. "He wasn't even crying!" he said. "He just asked if we could get his backpack for him so that his mother wouldn't be mad."

The quick-thinking and heroic actions of these Correction Officer's is commendable, and the bus driver and student were certainly fortunate that they were following them during the morning commute that day.